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OLT

ITÔ NOÉ

JAPANESE ANARCHIST AND FEMINIST

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水白



ITÔ NOÉ

青

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Itô Noé was born on the island of Kyushu on January 21, 1895. Graduates from Tokyo's Ueno Girls' School at age 16. Forced into an arranged marriage, she ran away from home.



有所の之と音一唯

Her English teacher, Tsuji Jun, the libertarian poet and translator of Stirner, takes her in. He supported Itô Noé in her studies. They married and had two sons.



In Tokyo in 1912, she joined the first feminist groups and contributed to the cultural magazine *Seito* « Blue Stockings ».



Translating Emma Goldman's *The Tragedy of Female Emancipation*, she was noticed by the anarchist Ôsugi Sakae, whom she met in September 1914.



Itô Noé became editor-in-chief of *Seito* in January 1915.

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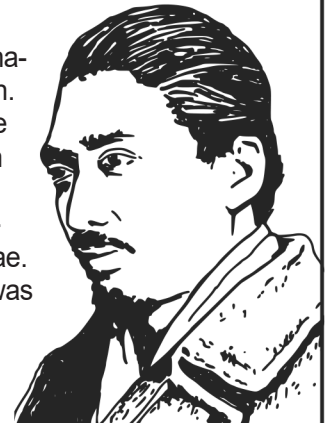


Ôsugi Sakae's newspaper, *Shimbum Heimin* « Journal of the Plebs », is banned by the police. Itô Noé defended it in *Seito*.

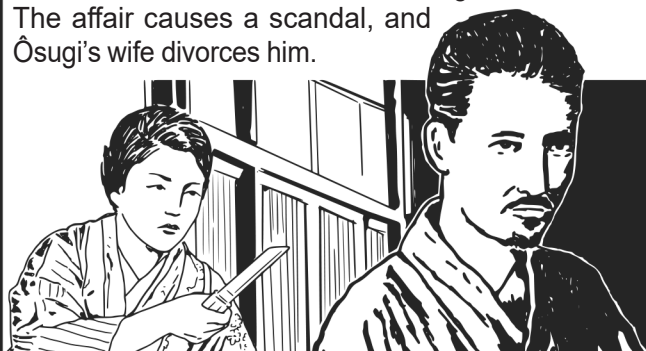


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Itô Noé takes up the themes of abortion, maternity and prostitution. In February 1916, she closed the publication of *Seito*, leaving Tsuji Jun to live in concubinage with Ôsugi Sakae. Already married, he was also having an affair with the journalist Ichiko Kamichika.



Jealous, Ichiko Kamichika stabs Ôsugi in the throat. The affair causes a scandal, and Ôsugi's wife divorces him.



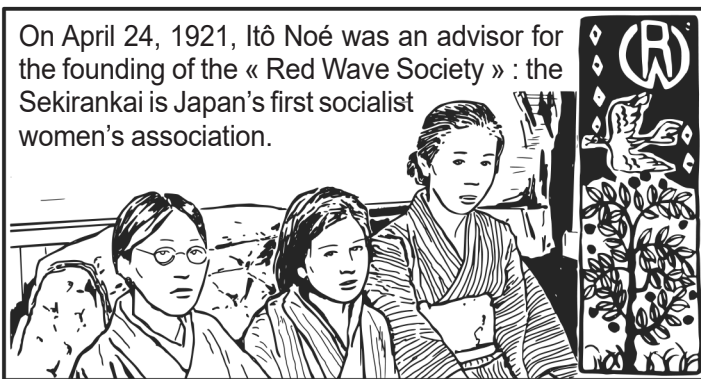
Ôsugi Sakae recovered, and the couple lived together in a house, where their first child was born in 1917.



Constant police surveillance regularly forced them to move, for both financial and political reasons.



On April 24, 1921, Itô Noé was an advisor for the founding of the « Red Wave Society » : the Sekirankai is Japan's first socialist women's association.



Sekirankai members marche during May Day political meetings. Women activists are arrested. Article 5 of the Public Law prohibits women from taking part in political demonstrations.



In October, they take part in socialist propaganda aimed at the army. The organization was dissolved by the government in December, eight months after its creation.



On September 1, 1923, the Kanto earthquake on the island of Honshu devastates Tokyo and Yokohama. The death toll was 141,720. Despite the declaration of martial law, panic and chaos led to the spread of wild rumors. In the city, popular militias killed Korean, Chinese and Japanese residents mistakenly identified as Koreans.



Military (Kenpeitai) and civilian (Tokkeitai) police summarily execute communist, socialist and anarchist activists for « dangerous thoughts ».



The « Amakasu Incident » took place on September 16, 1923. Itô Noé, Ôsugi Sakae and his six-year-old nephew were beaten to death and thrown into a well by Lieutenant Amakasu's Kenpeitai group.



These murders, of well know anarchists and a child, move and anger Japanese citizens.



Sentenced to ten years in prison, Masahiko Amakasu served only three years of his sentence.

